

U.S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

DEPARTMENTAL REGULATION		NUMBER: 1043-006
SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF A USDA MINORITY BUSINESS COMMITTEE	DATE: April 27, 1982	
	OPI: Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization	

1 PURPOSE

This regulation establishes a USDA Minority Business Committee. This Committee is created in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Commerce and the Department of Agriculture.

The Committee will facilitate communications throughout the Department regarding policies supporting minority businesses. It will assist in eliminating any barriers which may exist in reducing this sector's participation in USDA contracting programs.

2 BACKGROUND

We recently signed d Memorandum of Understanding between our Department and the Department of Commerce. The agreement establishes provisions for the operation of the Interagency Council for Minority Business Enterprise (IAC). It also directs agency head's to take specific actions in support of minority business. They include the following:

a Assure that the Administration's program of Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) support is communicated to all working levels.

b Advocate and encourage local participation in Minority Business Opportunity Committees.

c Assure the timely and accurate reporting of all MBE program transactions.

d Establish an agency-wide Minority Business Committee to include representation similar to IAC functional committees.

The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization has initiated actions to implement items a, b and c. Establishment of the Minority Business Committee will fulfill our commitment to the agreement.

3 OFFICERS AND MEMBERSHIP

The Assistant Secretary for Administration or his designee will serve as Chairperson. The membership will consist of the Deputy Assistant Secretaries, Deputy Under-Secretaries and a representative of the Science and Education agencies. The Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, will serve as Executive Director and provide staff support to the Chairperson.

4 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Minority Business Committee will support the policies and actions of the IAC and, make recommendations for program improvement to them. Other Committee responsibilities include:

a Communicate the Administration's support for minority business to all working levels.

b Review major minority business policies and changes.

c Discuss and resolve internal and external minority business issues and problems.